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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: HIRATA ET AL.

) Group Art Unit: 3629.

SERIAL NO.: 09/997,067

) Before the Examiner:

FILED: November 29, 2001

) I. Borissov

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16/C) 3.31.04 Walden

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Via Facsimile to 703-872-9306 Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 29, 2003, Applicants request reconsideration in the view of the following amendment and remarks for entry in the above-identified application.

Thereby certify that this correspondence was facsimile unusmitted to the United States Patent Office (Fax No.: 703-872-9306) on

March 26, 2004 (Date of Deposit)

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